

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An inkjet printing apparatus which includes a printhead that discharges ink and an ink tank detachably attached to the printhead, and executes printing by using the printhead that discharges the ink supplied from the ink tank, comprising:

detection means for detecting presence/absence of the ink tank;

cleaning means for cleaning the printhead; and

- control means for inhibiting a cleaning operation by said cleaning means on the basis of a detection result from said detection means.

2. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein when the detection result from said detection means indicates that the ink tank is not attached to the printhead, said control means inhibits the cleaning operation by said cleaning means.

3. The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein when the ink tank is not attached to the printhead, and a printing signal is received, said control means also inhibits a printing operation by said printhead.

4. The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising output means for, when a cleaning request signal or a printing signal is received in a state in which said detection means detects that the ink tank is not attached to the printhead, outputting information representing that the ink tank is not attached to the

printhead.

5. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the ink tank comprises a plurality of ink tanks which store a plurality of types of ink, respectively and each of the plurality of ink tanks is detachably attached to the printhead.

6. An inkjet printing apparatus which includes a printhead that discharges ink and an ink tank detachably attached to the printhead, and executes printing by using the printhead that discharges the ink supplied from the ink tank, comprising:

detection means for detecting presence/absence of the ink tank;

cleaning means for cleaning the printhead; and

control means for controlling a cleaning operation by said cleaning means on the basis of an unattached time of the ink tank, which is obtained on the basis of a detection result from said detection means.

7. The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said control means controls a level of the cleaning operation by said cleaning means on the basis of the unattached time of the ink tank.

8. The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the apparatus further comprises

measurement means for measuring the unattached time of the ink tank on the basis of the detection

result from said detection means, and

storage means for storing the unattached time of the ink tank, which is measured by said measurement means, and

5 wherein said control means controls the cleaning operation by said cleaning means on the basis of the unattached time of the ink tank, which is stored in said storage means.

9. The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said
10 control means comprises

acquisition means for acquiring, on the basis of the detection result from said detection means, first time when the ink tank is detached and second time when the ink tank is attached later, and

15 determination means for determining the unattached time of the ink tank on the basis of the first and second times acquired by said acquisition means, and

 wherein said control means controls the cleaning
20 operation by said cleaning means on the basis of the unattached time of the ink tank, which is determined by said determination means.

10. A method of controlling an inkjet printing apparatus which includes a printhead that discharges
25 ink and an ink tank detachably attached to the printhead, and executes printing by using the printhead that discharges the ink supplied from the ink tank,

comprising:

a detection step of detecting presence/absence of the ink tank; and

a control step of inhibiting a cleaning operation
5 by a cleaning section that cleans the printhead, on the basis of a detection result in the detection step.

11. A method of controlling an inkjet printing apparatus which includes a printhead that discharges ink and an ink tank detachably attached to the
10 printhead, and executes printing by using the printhead that discharges the ink supplied from the ink tank, comprising:

a detection step of detecting presence/absence of the ink tank; and

15 a control step of controlling a cleaning operation by a cleaning section that cleans the printhead, on the basis of an unattached time of the ink tank, which is obtained on the basis of a detection result in the detection step.

20 12. A program which implements control of an inkjet printing apparatus which includes a printhead that discharges ink and an ink tank detachably attached to the printhead, and executes printing by using the printhead that discharges the ink supplied from the ink
25 tank, comprising:

a program code for a detection step of detecting presence/absence of the ink tank; and

a program code for a control step of inhibiting a cleaning operation by a cleaning section that cleans the printhead, on the basis of a detection result in the detection step.

- 5 13. A program which implements control of an inkjet printing apparatus which includes a printhead that discharges ink and an ink tank detachably attached to the printhead, and executes printing by using the printhead that discharges the ink supplied from the ink
10 tank, comprising:

a program code for a detection step of detecting presence/absence of the ink tank; and

- a program code for a control step of controlling a cleaning operation by a cleaning section that cleans
15 the printhead, on the basis of an unattached time of the ink tank, which is obtained on the basis of a detection result in the detection step.